

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 OES-09 ISO-00 AID-05 HEW-04 SP-02 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 MMO-01 A-01 /044 W  
-----120837 211117Z /14  
R 201720Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1697  
INFO USICA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: SPOPEG  
SUBJECT: POPULATION CONTROL: ANOTHER CALL FOR  
- "POSITIVE ACTION"

REF: CAIRO 17110

1. CAIRO PRESS TODAY GAVE FURTHER EVIDENCE OF INTEREST  
IN ISSUE OF CONTROLLING POPULATION GROWTH. JOURNALIST  
FIKRI ABAZA, WRITING IN AL-MUSSAWAR JULY 20 CALLS FOR,  
AMONG OTHER THINGS, "POSITIVE ACTION" AGAINST POPULATION  
EXPLOSION, WHICH HE DESCRIBES AS GREATEST DANGER OF ALL  
THREATENING EGYPT. POSITIVE ACTION, HE SAYS, MEANS  
"NOT MERELY ADVICE AND GUIDANCE" BUT "PROHIBITIVE  
LEGISLATION".

2. COMMENT: WHILE ABAZA'S MENTION OF POPULATION CONTROL  
IS BRIEF, IT IS ALSO VERY STRONG. IT TIES IN WITH  
STATEMENTS MADE JULY 19 BY MINISTER OF PLANNING ABDEL  
MEGUID TO ACTING AID DIRECTOR THAT EFFORTS TO CURB POPU-  
LATION CONTROL NOW HAS BROAD SUPPORT WITHIN GOVERNMENT  
RANKS, INCLUDING SUPPORT OF SHEIKH OF AL AZHAR AND  
PRESIDENT SADAT.

3. MEGUID EXPLAINED TO ACTING DIRECTOR THAT SHORTLY AFTER  
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HIS RETURN FROM PARIS HE MET WITH SADAT, SALEM AND THE  
SHEIKH OF AL AZHAR. ACCORDING MEGUID, SADAT BECAME  
CONVINCED THAT "GO AHEAD" HAD TO BE GIVEN FOR MORE ACTIVE  
PROGRAMS TO REDUCE POPULATION GROWTH. SHEIKH ALSO  
AGREED ON BENEFIT OF RESTRAINING SIZE OF FAMILIES  
AND PASSED WORD THAT THIS IDEA SHOULD BE POSITIVELY  
PRESENTED IN MOSQUES AT FRIDAY SERVICES. MEGUID SAID

HIS SUBSEQUENT VISITS TO MOSQUES PROVED THAT IDEA WAS  
IN FACT BEING TREATED POSITIVELY.

4. MEGUID PLANS TO WORK UP DATA TO DEMONSTRATE TO PUBLIC  
NEGATIVE IMPACT OF HIGH POPULATION GROWTH RATE. BUT HE  
ALSO BELIEVES MIDWIVES IN RURAL AREAS MUST BE ENLISTED  
ON SIDE OF FAMILY PLANNING AND MUST BE PAID MORE FOR  
PREGNANCIES AVOIDED THAN FOR DELIVERIES. HE DOES NOT SEE  
MALE STERILIZATION AS VIABLE SOLUTION FOR FORESEEABLE  
FUTURE. MINISTRY OF HEALTH SUPPOSEDLY WORKING ON STRATEGY  
FOR POPULATION CONTROL.

5. MEGUID CONCLUDED THAT THERE ALSO GREAT NEED FOR  
RELOCATION OF SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF PEOPLE TO BREAK  
UP HIGH CONCENTRATION OF POPULATION IN CAIRO AND OTHER  
MAJOR CITIES; HE THOUGHT THIS IN ITSELF WOULD LOWER BIRTH  
RATE. HE HOPED AID WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF DEVELOPMENT  
OF NEW LANDS.

6. COMMENT: AUTHORITATIVE PICTURE OF WHAT GOE POLICY  
WILL BE IN THIS SENSITIVE AREA WILL IN THE END HAVE TO  
COME FROM SADAT. SCARRITT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), POPULATION GROWTH RATE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CAIRO17429  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780300-0183  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780740/aaaabhbt.tel  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 9f683570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 CAIRO 17110  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1947306  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POPULATION CONTROL: ANOTHER CALL FOR - \"POSITIVE ACTION\"  
**TAGS:** SPOP, EG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9f683570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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